



County of Los Angeles
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June 28, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

Immigration Reform Legislation

On June 28, 2007, the Senate failed to invoke cloture, 46 to 53, on S. 1639, a comprehensive immigration reform bill, which includes provisions to increase border security and immigration enforcement, establish a new temporary "guest" worker program, and provide legal status to undocumented immigrants who entered the United States prior to January 1, 2007. A 60-vote majority is required to invoke cloture, that is, to end a filibuster of the bill. Senators Feinstein and Boxer voted in favor of cloture while 37 Republicans, 15 Democrats, and one independent voted against it.

The bill was pulled from the Senate floor after the cloture vote was defeated. In all likelihood, it means that comprehensive immigration reform will not be enacted in the current session of Congress. House Democratic leaders have signaled that the House will not proceed on immigration reform legislation until after the Senate first passes such legislation. It now appears that supporters of immigration reform in the Senate will not be able to muster the 60 votes needed to overcome a filibuster. A previous cloture vote on June 7, 2007 was defeated, 45 to 50, so the bill's supporters only were able to pick up one additional vote.

AIDS Clinical Trial Group Funding

Last week, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) notified the University of Southern California (USC) that the AIDS Clinical Trial Group (ACTG) site at the Los Angeles County + USC (LAC + USC) Medical Center will receive a seven-year grant extension, beginning July 1, 2007, subject to annual review. The AIDS clinical trials test the effectiveness of various anti-retroviral drug treatment regimens. In December 2006, the County, with the assistance of its Congressional delegation, succeeded in securing a two-year extension for this ACTG site after NIH previously had indicated that grant funding would end on December 31, 2006.

Census Question on Foster Children

Charles Kincannon, the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, sent a June 11, 2007 letter to Representatives Waxman (D-CA) and Clay (D-MO), who chair the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and the Committee's Information Policy, Census, and National Archives Subcommittee, respectively, indicating that the Census Bureau will maintain the question about foster children in the American Community Survey (ACS). In April 2007, a five-signature letter was sent to Representative Clay, urging that this question be maintained. The Census Bureau previously had proposed that the question be removed from the ACS, which is an annual "long-form" survey. The ACS also will replace the long-form questionnaire in the 2010 decennial census.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:MT:dc

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist